

IN THE CLAIMS

1 1. (Three Times Amended) A method of removing a particle from a surface of a  
2 metal plug formed in a via comprising:  
3 introducing a first agent to a metal layer;  
4 polishing the metal layer with the first agent;  
5 after polishing the metal layer, introducing a second agent comprising hydrogen  
6 peroxide to rinse the surface of the metal plug; and  
7 removing at least one particle from the surface of the metal plug.

1 9. (Three Times Amended) A method of removing at least one particle from a  
2 surface of a metal plug disposed over a substrate comprising:  
3 depositing a slurry onto a metal layer over the metal plug;  
4 polishing the metal layer; and  
5 after polishing the metal layer, rinsing the surface of the metal plug with a  
6 solution comprising hydrogen peroxide.

1 18. (Three Times Amended) A method comprising:  
2 polishing a metal layer over a conductive plug with a slurry;  
3 after polishing the metal layer, introducing a rinsing solution onto the conductive  
4 plug, the rinsing solution comprises <sup>comprising</sup> hydrogen peroxide.

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